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18. (Amended) The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 1, wherein the optical image converting device is directed toward an object located at a position where the display device is not observable.

19. (Amended) The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 18, wherein the converting device is capable of being directed toward an object located at a position where the display device is observable.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2002, claims 1-19 have been amended. Claims 1-22 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 11 and 20-22 are independent. The Office Action indicates that claims 20 and 22 are allowed, and claims 11-15 are allowable but objected to for being dependent from the rejected base claim.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by this Amendments. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Drawing Objection

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the Drawing Correction has not been received by the Office. Thus, Applicants submit the Drawing correction attached hereafter. It is respectfully requested that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 16-19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,009,336 issued to Harris, *et al.* (“Harris”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,845,166 issued to Fellagara, *et al.* (“Fellagara”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Previously, Applicants argued that Fellagara fails to teach modifying the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image, as recited in claim 1.

In response, the Examiner asserted that (a) Harris shows a receiver which receives the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system, and (b) Fellagara shows the claimed feature of modifying the electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image.

Particularly, regarding the claimed feature of (b) modifying the electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image, the Examiner took the position that this claimed feature is the same with generating a reduced sized digital image by electronically cropping the size of the full resolution digital image and compressing the image prior to storing the digital image data in a memory, as described in Fellagara. This assertion is respectfully disagreed with.

It is submitted that modifying an electromagnetic signal (i.e., wave signal) into a digital electronic signal (i.e., binary signal) is basically transforming a signal from one signal format to another signal format. Such signal transformation is different from cropping the size of digital image or compressing the image, which is mere digital electronic (i.e., binary) data processing and does not involve any electromagnetic signal (i.e., wave signal).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that modifying the electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image is *different* from generating a reduced sized digital image from an original digital image and compressing the image prior to storing the digital image data in a memory.

Regarding the Examiner's assertion that Fellegara teaches a digital imaging system is communicated with a host computer via wireless communication link, Fellegara describes "the digital subsystem unit 72 interfaces with a host computer to perform *various operations* when the main camera body 10 is coupled to the host computer via the data communication port 136. The data communication port 136 can either be ... a wireless type communication port (for example infrared or RF)" (column 7, lines 10-17).

Based upon Applicants' word-by-word review, it appears that, in Fellegara, the wireless type communication port can be used to "perform various operations", but there is no explicit or implied teaching directed to receiving an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a *wireless telephone system* and *modifying* said electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image", as recited in claim 1.

As admitted in the Office Action, the primary reference to Harris fails to teach or suggest converting an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image. As mentioned above, the secondary reference to Fellagara fails to cure the aforementioned deficiency from the teachings of the Harris. None of the applied references teaches or suggests the claimed feature of "a *modifying* unit which *modifies* said electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image". Thus, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of the applied references to arrive at the claimed invention.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over Harris and Fellagara. Likewise, claims 2-10 and 16-19 that are dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all the rejection over claims 1-10 and 16-19 be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 21, Applicants previously argued that Harris fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature of “a device which prevents the selecting device from selecting the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image unless the selection is requested by a manual operation”.

In response, the Examiner stated that Harris teaches that the communication device is selectively configured for a telephone mode or a video conferencing mode using softkeys which are manually operated by a user.

The Examiner is respectfully reminded that a video conferencing described in Harris involves selecting *both of the image and voice of the user*. In Harris, the user's voice is always selected regardless of whether it is a telephone mode or a video conference mode. The user's voice is never deselected even in the video conferencing mode.

In this regard, claim 21 recites “a device which selects *one* of the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image and the electronic audio signal” and “a device which prevents the selecting device from selecting the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image unless the selection is requested by a manual operation”.

As mentioned above, in Harris, the voice is always selected, and therefore it would not be possible for Harris to select only *one* of the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image and the electronic audio signal. Thus, the fact that the communication device is selectively

configured for a telephone mode or a video conferencing mode *can not* be considered as teaching the claimed feature of selecting *one* of the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image and the electronic audio signal or preventing the selecting device from selecting the digital electronic signal indicative of the still image unless the selection is requested by a manual operation.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is patentable over Harris and Fellagara. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claim 21 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

In the Office Action, claim 11-15 have been indicated as allowable but objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In this response, claim 11 has been amended to present in independent from by incorporating all of the limitations of claims 1 and 5. Claims 12-25 are dependent from amended independent claim 11. Thus, it is requested that the objection over claims 11-15 be withdrawn.

In this response, claim 1 has been further amended to replace “a device which converts ...” in line 2 with “a converting device which converts” to be consistent with the recitation of “converting device” in claim 1, line 10 and claim 2, line 3. Also, claims 2-19 have been amended to correct informalities therein.

CONCLUSION

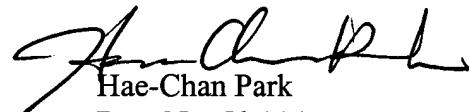
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner

reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Hae-Chan Park
Reg. No. 50,114

Date: September 3, 2002

McGuire Woods LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102-4215
Tel: 703-712-5000
Fax: 703-712-5050
HCP:WSC/kbs

Check Attachment: Drawing Correction

APPENDIX

The “marked-up” version of the amended claims is as follows:

1. (Amended) A digital still camera capable of telecommunication comprising:
a converting device which converts an optical image into a digital electromagnetic signal indicative of a still image;
a receiver which receives an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system;
a modifying unit which modifies said electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image; and
a device which alternatively displays a still image on the basis of the digital electronic signal from the converting device or from the modifying unit.
2. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a memory which alternatively stores the digital electronic signal from the converting device or from the modifying unit, the displaying device being responsive to the memory.
3. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 1, wherein the displaying device includes a reflection type color liquid crystal display device without back light illumination.

4. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a device for automatically activating the receiver responsive to an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system identifying the digital still camera.

5. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a speaker for generating an audio signal in response to the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system received by the receiver.

6. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a device responsive to the receiver for controlling the displaying device to indicate whether the received electromagnetic signal contains a still image signal or an audio signal.

7. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a device for switching a first mode of generating the audio signal via the speaker in response to the electromagnetic signal received by the receiver to a second mode of displaying the image on the displaying device in response to the electromagnetic signal received by the receiver.

8. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 7, further comprising a device for inhibiting the speaker from generating the audio signal in the second mode.

9. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 7, further comprising a device for distinguishing an electromagnetic signal containing a still image signal from an electromagnetic signal containing an audio signal to thereby automatically controlling the switching device.

10. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 7, further comprising a device for manually controlling the switching device.

11. (Amended) A digital still camera capable of telecommunication [in accordance with claim 5, further] comprising:

a converting device which converts an optical image into a digital electromagnetic signal indicative of a still image;

a receiver which receives an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system;

a modifying unit which modifies said electromagnetic signal into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image;

a device which alternatively displays a still image on the basis of the digital electronic signal from the converting device or from the modifying unit;

a speaker for generating an audio signal in response to the electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system received by the receiver; and
a device for extracting an audio signal component from an electromagnetic signal containing both a still image signal and an audio signal to control the speaker, and a device for extracting a still image signal component from the same electromagnetic signal to control the displaying device, whereby the displaying device is capable of displaying the still image while the audio signal is being generated from the speaker.

12. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 11, further comprising a microphone for converting sound into an electronic signal, a device for combining the digital electronic signal indicative of a still image with the electronic audio signal to form a combination signal, and a device for transmitting the combination signal as an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system, whereby the still image is capable of being transmitted while the audio signal is transmitted by the transmitting device.

13. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a device responsive to the converting device, for storing the digital electromagnetic signal indicative of a still image, wherein the combining device is responsive to the memory to thereby combine the digital electronic signal indicative of a still image converted prior to the combining operation.

14. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 12, wherein the converting device is capable of converting an optical image into a digital electronic signal indicative of a still image while the audio signal is transmitted by the transmitting device.

15. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a device for designating a remote device with a telephone number transmitted by the transmitting device as an electromagnetic signal generated in accordance with a wireless telephone system, a memory device for storing at least one specific telephone number, and a device for preventing the combining device from combining the digital electronic signal indicative of a still image with the electronic audio signal when the telephone number designating the remote device coincides with a specific telephone number.

16. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a microphone for converting sound into an electronic audio signal, wherein the speaker and the microphone have a first mode function in which they are used with the ear and the mouth of a user respectively close thereto and a second mode function in which they are used with the ear and the mouth of a user respectively remote therefrom.

17. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 16, further comprising a manual switch for activating the display device,

wherein the speaker and the microphone are automatically changed into the second mode when the display means is activated by the manual switch .

18. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 1, wherein the optical image converting device is directed toward an object located at a position where the display device is not observable.

19. (Amended) [A] The digital still camera capable of telecommunication in accordance with claim 18, wherein the [optical image] converting device is capable of being directed toward an object located at a position where the display device is observable.